

2022 – 2028

Comprehensive Park Plan

Draft
04/10/22



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Introduction



The citizens of South Bend can boast of eight city-owned parks that range in size from the five-acre Community Park down to the pocket-sized Helen Davis Park. There are four park facilities owned by other jurisdictions as well. Located in neighborhoods, along the waterfront, and in natural areas, the City of South Bend park system is quite diverse and supports a multitude of activities.

Keeping parks “up to snuff” is a challenging task for any community, but especially so for a small city like South Bend that has only 1,750 residents. Maintaining and expanding parks in communities of this size requires a major investment in community resources – taxes as well as additional donations by citizens in time, resources, and money. Given the number and type of parks in South Bend, the community clearly has been generous in this regard.

While public spending on parks is money well spent, getting the most out of each dollar demands careful planning, especially during these current tough economic times. The city, in its role as stewards of the citizen's parks, needs to be especially vigilant in how it spends limited resources on maintaining what it has as it moves forward to meet new needs.

For this reason, the Comprehensive Park Plan is so important for South Bend; it lays out a strategic course as to how the city intends to manage the park system over the next six years with purposeful action. The plan also serves as a rallying point for helping citizens stay on track as to how they can help the city make their parks even better.

The organization of the Comprehensive Park Plan follows the requirements of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office's Manual 2, Planning Policies. There are seven sections to the plan.

1. The **Community Description** provides a brief history of the city and its demographics
2. The **Goals and Objectives** set desired outcomes and specific projects to achieve them.
3. The **Parks Inventory** lists, describes, and rates the condition of each city park facility. It also lists those recreational facilities managed by other jurisdictions within the city limits.

4. The **Parks Management, Accomplishments, Funding, and Capital Facilities Plan** section describes how the city administers and funds its park operations and improvements.
5. The **Public Involvement Program** describes the city's outreach program and its outcomes.
6. The **Demand and Needs Analysis** makes the connection between how the inventory and public outreach outcomes influenced the city's choices in its Goals and Objectives and 2022-2028 Capital Facilities Plan.
7. The last section, **Adoption**, describes how the city reviewed and adopted the Comprehensive Park Plan.

Section 1: Community Description

The City of South Bend, county seat of Pacific County, lies along the south bank of on the scenic Willapa River. The city is centrally located 129 miles from Seattle and 141 miles from Portland, Oregon at 46 °39'48" N and 123°48'12"W in Southeastern Washington. US Highway 101 is the main transportation link to South Bend. The city covers a land area of 1.81 square miles and extends over 0.38 miles of water.

Native American History

The Lower Chinook Indians were the original inhabitants of the South Bend area. Their territory included the region bordering the mouth of the Columbia River and the area surrounding Willapa Bay. They fished the area's rivers, collected shellfish in nearby Willapa Harbor, and hunted upland game.

As with much of the native populations in the region, many died from exposure to new diseases introduced by white settlers in the 1850's. However, their descendants remained in the South Bend area and merged with other tribes on reservations in Washington and Oregon.

Modern History

The contemporary City of South Bend began in 1869 when the Riddell brothers built a sawmill four miles upstream from the river's mouth at Willapa Bay. The business attracted millworkers and homesteaders to the area, and by 1875, the town of South Bend emerged. The settlement acquired the name "South Bend" for the mill's location at the southern end of a curve on the Willapa River. In that same year, the town saw its first post office and school built.

Between 1889 and 1895, both the economy and the population grew. The community's location on a navigable river in the heart of timber country fueled an economic boom. Fishing and shell fishing gained ground in economic importance. The South Bend Land Company platted the first city lots in 1890; homes and businesses soon followed. The city officially incorporated on September 9, 1890. In 1893, an election moved the county seat from Oysterville to South Bend.

Today, South Bend continues as a place of government and an aquaculture center. The community prides itself as the "Oyster Capitol of the World," with companies processing oysters harvested in nearby Willapa Bay. Other firms in the community process crab, shrimp, and caviar. A small, local fishery participates in the West Coast and North Pacific seasons.

Demographic Profile

The 2021 Office of Financial Management population estimate for the City of South Bend was 1,750. Between 2010 and 2021, the city's population grew 6.5%. It is the second largest of the four incorporated municipalities in the county.

South Bend has 746 housing units; single-family homes make up 85% of the housing stock and apartments the remaining 15%.

The US Census Bureau has yet to release detailed 2020 data for small cities, but recent American Community Survey data (2017) does provide basic demographic estimates for South Bend citizens.

- Average household size: 2.31
- Number of family households: 334
- Median age: 48.0 years
- Percent of people under 18 years: 17.1% (277)
- Percent of people 62 years and older: 29.2% (473)
- Percent Hispanic/Latino of any race: 21.1%
- Owner-occupied housing: 58.2%
- Renter-occupied housing: 41.8%

Section 2: Goals and Objectives

The citizens of South Bend envision a future for their city parks that achieves the following goals and objectives:

Goal: Encourage sponsorship of city parks by the community

The City of South Bend recognizes that it is a small community with limited resources. South Bend depends on dedicated individuals and groups within the community to help with creating and maintaining its park system. Keeping the community informed and interested in becoming involved is a challenge for city officials and staff.

Objectives:

1. Identify priority projects for community groups and individuals to sponsor, particularly grounds keeping and maintenance projects.
2. Advertise sponsorship opportunities on the city's web page.
3. Target community groups for recruitment of specific projects.
4. Establish a legacy program that allows individuals to bequeath their estate to the city, upon approval by the City Council, for funding park projects and maintenance.

Goal: Maintain and Improve the Quality of Existing Parks

South Bend faces the dual challenge of maintaining its existing park system while it expands into the future. Regular maintenance and repair of structures and equipment are important for maintaining the quality of city parks.

Objectives:

South Bend Community Park

1. Upgrade the pavilion with accessories and bathroom improvements.

South Bend Carnegie Library

2. Add front entry improvements to allow for greater Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility.

First Street Park

1. Remove and replace broken concrete and asphalt surface with new concrete court.

Ron Craig Boat Launch/Helen Davis Park

1. Resurface gravel approach to boat launch with asphalt to minimize maintenance.
2. Encourage WDFW to provide a permanent restroom that would serve the boat launch and adjacent Helen Davis Park.

Robert Bush Memorial Park, Ray Spurrell Board Walk, South Bend Dock

1. Address drainage issues in the park by grading and resurfacing the parking area.
2. Install new planters.
3. Upgrade existing signage.
4. Upgrade the existing pavilion.

Margaret Olson Park

1. Refurbish the steam donkey, including adding new log skids.
2. Refurbish or remove the deteriorating portable jail.

Mary Rogers Pioneer Park

1. Replace gravel areas with permeable concrete surface to reduce maintenance and improve ADA accessibility.

Mill Pond Creek Park

1. Improve parking lot with gravel.
2. Construct a foot trail around the pond perimeter.
3. Add a small ADA accessible fishing dock.
4. Restore sections of the foot trail from US 101 along Mill Creek to Mill Creek Pond.
5. Dredge pond to original depth to remove excess siltation from Mill Creek.

Goal: Add Park Improvements that Benefit Children

Parks are especially beneficial to children by giving them safe places to learn social skills and enjoy healthy exercise. The city wants to examine its parks system to see how it can improve them for kids. Potential improvements could include playground equipment and a wading pool. Promotional materials about South Bend Park should feature children's play areas where traveling parents can stop for restroom breaks and let their children run off excess energy.

Objectives:

First Street Park

1. Remove the tennis court and replace with playground equipment for children.

South Bend Community Park

2. Remove tennis courts and replace it with a children's play area.

Goal: Develop Improved Signage and Brochures that Informs Visitors and Residents about Parks and Recreation Opportunities in South Bend

South Bend has many unique parks and recreation opportunities for visitors and residents alike. Sharing information about these community assets encourages citizens to use and invest in their park system. Informing visitors of South Bend's recreational opportunities, too, is part of a broader economic development strategy aimed at encouraging local tourism.

Objectives:

1. Design and develop kiosks at each end of the city along US Highway 101 that provides information to tourists about park facilities and recreation opportunities within the city.
2. Each city park should have informational signs about other South Bend parks.
3. Install signs describing South Bend boating facilities and kayak launch locations.
4. Develop and distribute a brochure about South Bend parks and recreational opportunities.

Goal: Extend the Willapa Hills Trail State Park into Downtown South Bend

The Willapa Hills Trail stretches for 56 miles from the City of Chehalis to the intersection of Summit Avenue and US Highway 101 in South Bend. The Willapa Hills Trail is one of several long-distance trails owned and managed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission that are extremely popular with walkers, hikers, runners, and bicyclists.

In 2013, the city extended the trail 1,100 feet to the parking lot located at the intersection of Summit Avenue and US 101 and constructed a restroom in exchange for use of the old railroad right-of-way for a new sewer transmission main to the regional sewer plant.

The city now would like to partner with Washington State Parks to extend the trail's terminus another one-third mile to a seven-acre undeveloped property along the Willapa River north of US 101. In addition to the trail, this scenic property has 800 feet of

shoreline access . The city intends to add RV, car, and bicycle tent camping, picnic tables, open grassy areas, and access to the water for human-powered watercrafts.

Washington State Parks has actively participated in the planning of the project by not only expressing their interest in extending the trail to the project site, but acquiring additional property for adding trail parking, restrooms, and showers. City and state representatives continue to work closely on the project's site acquisition and design.

There is tremendous community support for a potential project at this site and is a major goal of the city's Shoreline Master Program. The project not only will be an asset for local citizens, but it will be a regional or statewide draw that could contribute to the economic revitalization of businesses in South Bend.

Objectives:

1. Apply for a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) grant through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to acquire approximately seven acres owned by Harbor Rock, Inc.
2. Execute an interlocal agreement with Washington State Parks to develop an overall project approach that coordinates the trail extension and related improvements with the city's park development plans.
3. Prepare a preliminary design study that will determine the project's specific layout, cost estimates, schedule, and funding sources.
4. Coordinate with the Washington State Department of Transportation to plan for the incorporation of the trail extension within the US 101 right-of-way.

Section 3: City of South Bend Parks Inventory

Cheney Community Park



Cheney Community Park lies near the city center, one block south of Highway 101. The city developed the park in 1980 with assistance from the Cheney Foundation, IAC, Weyerhaeuser, and local service groups. It is approximately five acres in area.

This popular park serves a variety of community activities. Park users have access to an open field for team activities, including soccer and football, plus a softball/baseball diamond. The city recently installed field lighting, allowing for nighttime use of the athletic fields.



The park also has a pavilion with public restrooms and public parking.

Condition: The overall condition of the park is good, although the pavilion/ restrooms show signs of needed repairs to the roof and concrete areas. The tennis courts see little use and the city may consider converting them to a children's playground.

South Bend Carnegie Library

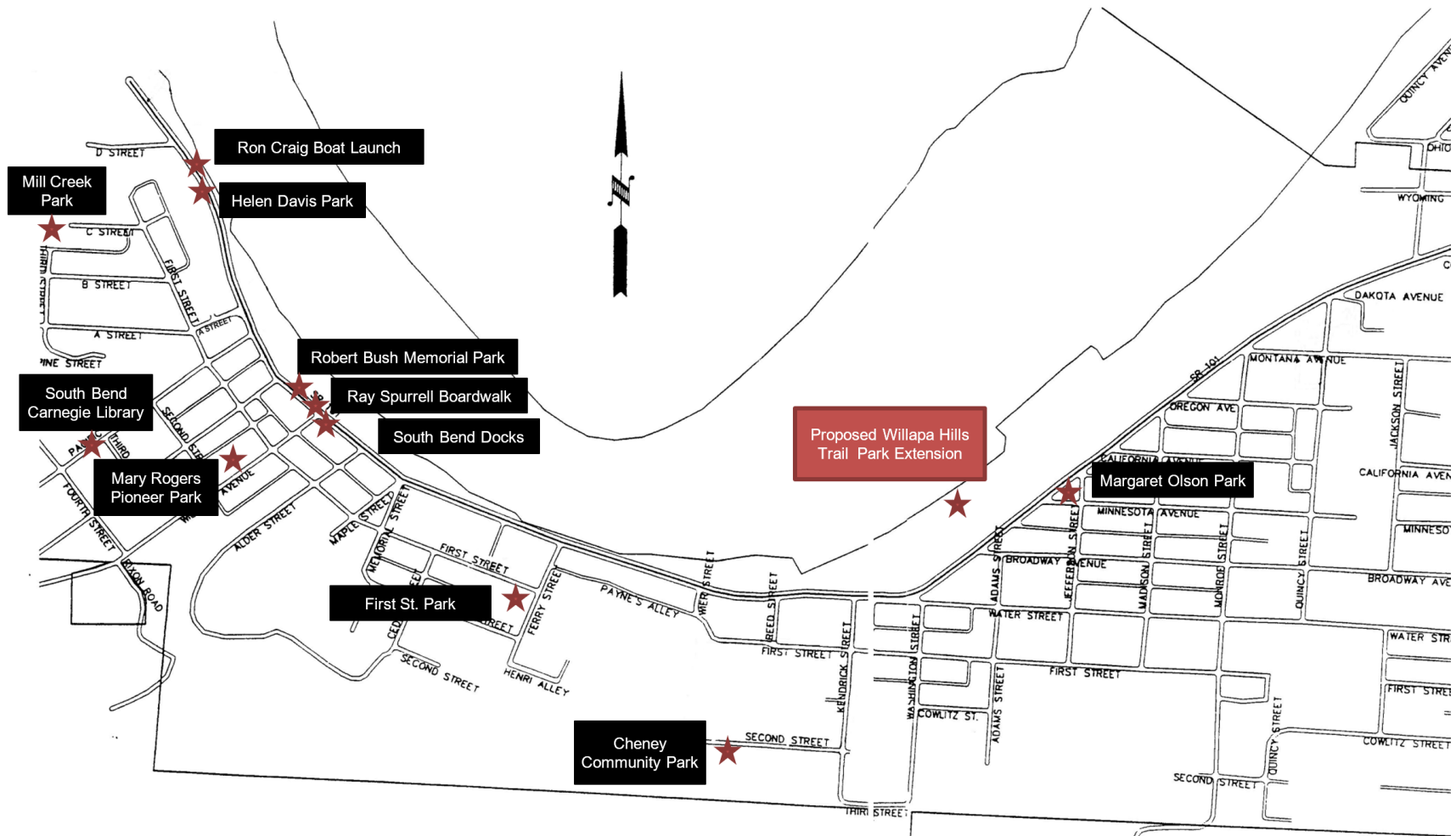


Built in 1913 with funds from the Carnegie Foundation, the City of South Bend maintains this classic structure and the Timberland Regional Library system provides library services. The building is on the list of National Register of Historic Places (1982).

In addition to recreational and resource reading materials, the library provides computer on-line services, cultural lectures, and youth services.

Due to safety concerns, the Department of Labor and Industries required the city to temporarily close the library due to safety concerns. After receiving an anonymous donation of \$100,000 for addressing abatement concerns, the library reopened in January 2019.

Figure 1.
City of South Bend Parks Inventory



Condition: This 109-year old building remains in need of a wide range of expensive repairs and upgrades. A recent architectural assessment identified the following issues in need of attention:

- Installing a foundation drain and sump pump
- Replacement of main entrance doors
- Upgrades and modifications of the exterior stairs
- Stucco repairs to the exterior walls
- Repairs to interior plaster walls
- Replacement of basement windows
- Interior improvements that include refinishing shelves and replacing carpet

The total estimate for these improvements is \$714,000. The city is currently exploring funding options to recondition the structure.

First Street Park



First Street Park is just two blocks south of US Highway 101 and is approximately one-half acre in size. E.T. Hazeltine, along with other civic-minded individuals and groups, originally developed this park with a tennis court, a basketball court, and a swing set. The park has no off-street parking and no restrooms.

Condition: This park is in relatively poor condition due to its cracked and heaved asphalt and concrete surfaces. The tennis court is no longer functional and the wooden supports for the basketball hoops are rotting. Despite its current condition, the park remains popular with basketball users.

Ron Craig Boat Launch

The South Bend Boat Launch is located just west of the city center along Highway 101. The launch has a concrete pad, loading-unloading dock, and a portable toilet.



The launch area is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ acre in size. The Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group upgraded the launch in 2006. This is a day-use only park.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) owns and maintains the large gravel parking lot to the south used by launch users and visitors.

Condition: The boat ramp and dock are in good condition. However, maintenance of the parking lot owned by WDFW does not see the frequency of grading and gravel replacement as it needs.

Helen Davis Park



This is a small day use park adjacent to the South Bend Boat Launch. The boat launch parking area provides an easy pullout area here for recreational vehicles, making it a popular stop for travelers. Citizens and visitors use the park for lunch breaks as well as just resting and looking at water activities. It is also popular with local shore anglers.

This park is dedicated to Helen Davis, the South Bend resident who wrote the song, "Washington, My Home", the official song of Washington State.

Audubon Washington also lists the park as an important birding site in its publication "The Great Washington State Birding Train – Southwest Loop."

Condition: This park is in good condition.

"A" Street Park

"A" Street Park is a mini-park located on State Route 101. This park is an open grass area with a welcome sign with shrubs. The park was donated by Jean Shaudys in 1974.



Condition: This park only requires regular mowing and maintenance of landscaping.

Robert Bush Memorial Park, Ray Spurrell Board Walk, South Bend Dock

This trio of park facilities lies in the center of the downtown business district on US Highway 101 at the former old City Hall site. Covering approximately one-third acre, it provides a breathtaking view of Willapa Harbor.



The Robert Bush Memorial Park is a memorial to the war dead of Pacific County who served during World Wars I and II, the Korean War, and the Viet Nam War. The name of the park honors Medal of Honor winner, Robert Bush.

Adjacent to the park is the Ray Spurrell Boardwalk. Here visitors can stroll among planters and marine emblems symbolic of the City's heritage.

Connected to the boardwalk is an 88-foot gangway that leads to the South Bend Dock. This modern boating facility provides 380 feet of low-maintenance dock that extends 30 feet into the Willapa River. Dock berths have water and electrical hookups. The state's Boating Facilities Program funded this project in 2004.



Condition: There are significant maintenance needs for repairing sunken areas in the parking lot, replacing planters, and general upgrades to the kiosk and signage. The South Bend Dock received extensive damage during an extreme low tide event in 2020 but will undergo repair in the fall of 2022.

Margaret Olson Park

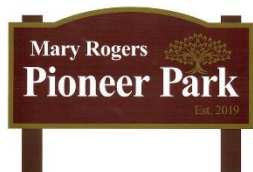
This mini-park at the corner of US Highway 101 and Minnesota Street has an old-time steam donkey used in early logging operations. The park also has the original, portable jail first used at the original county seat in Oysterville during the 1870s.

The park has landscaping, a picnic table, and benches, but no restrooms.



Condition: Both the steam donkey and jail need repairs; otherwise, the park is in adequate condition.

Mary Rogers Pioneer Park



Mary Rogers Pioneer Park is the city's newest developed park. Built in 2019 across from City Hall, the park is one-third acre, has public restrooms, grassy areas, and picnic tables. The park is an important draw for both visitors and lunchtime workers in South Bend's downtown. The ample on-street parking around the park's vicinity allows out-of-towners to stop and take a break, use the restrooms, and visit the town's businesses and eateries.



Condition: The structures in the park are new and in excellent condition. However, the original gravel walkways generate excessive maintenance, and the city intends to replace them with hard surfacing.

Mill Pond Creek Park

The city acquired the five-acre Mill Pond Creek property from Emmerson & Son LLC in 2022. This undeveloped property is north of US Highway 101 across from the South Bend Boat Launch. The two major features of the property are Mill Pond and Mill Creek.



Mill Pond Creek Park is approximately 1¼ acre in size. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regularly stocks the pond for youth and senior fishing.

Mill Creek is a salmon bearing stream where the public can observe spawning from October through January. A one-quarter mile trail begins at US 101 that leads to its outlet at Mill Creek Pond. The trailhead has informational kiosk that share information about salmon and salmon spawning.

The public can access the property by way of an unimproved gravel road at the end of “D” Street or the foot trail that begins at US 101. Parking is available across the highway at the South Bend Boat Launch.

Condition: Now that the city owns the park, minor upgrades are planned to make general improvements to the grounds and provide greater maintenance to trails. Eventually, dredging of the pond of excessive silt will be necessary to maintain a depth that supports recreational fishing.

Other Park and Recreation Assets within the City of South Bend

Willapa Hills State Park Trail

The Willapa Hills State Park Trail stretches 56 miles from Chehalis to South Bend, rambling through pastoral valleys to tidewater Willapa Bay. The trail is a former Northern Pacific Railroad right-of-way that is still under construction in some sections. Washington State Parks owns and maintains the trail.



The section connecting Raymond and South Bend is extremely popular with locals and visitors. It has a paved surface that follows along the south bank of the Willapa River, terminating at Summit Ave. This section is about four miles long and is perfect for walking, biking, and other non-motorized activities.

South Bend School District



The South Bend School District complements the overall recreational programs of the area. The district has an Elementary School (K-6) and a Junior/Senior High School (7-12). The elementary school has a playfield and a sheltered play shed. The junior/senior high school has a football field and track for outdoor sport's interests and two full gymnasiums for indoor recreation. The school uses the facilities at South Bend Community Park for high school baseball. The district has left its playground and track open to public use during non-school hours and the rubberized track is a favorite of the recreational and health conscious walkers.

Hangman's Park

The Pacific County Historical Society owns this property, located at the southwest corner of Harrison Street and Montana Avenue. The property is approximately one-acre.



The park was the site of the old Pacific County Courthouse. Its name comes from the hanging of a Chinese cannery worker in the airshaft of the old courthouse.

The park has potential, but it is largely undeveloped. Because there are no restrooms, the park receives minimal use. The Historical Society maintains the park through volunteer labor.

Section 4: Park Management, Accomplishments, Funding & Capital Facilities Plan

Parks Management

The city's Public Works Department is responsible for general maintenance and repairs for all city parks. The department dedicates one employee for parks to do repairs, mowing, cleaning, and other upkeep tasks. The Public Works Department provides all heavy equipment and vehicle needs for the park system.

Park Accomplishments Since 2016

During its 2016-2022 planning period, the city implemented several major improvements to the park system:

- Dedication of one city employee to park maintenance
- Installed new lighting at South Bend Cheney Community Park
- Construction of Mary Rogers Pioneer Park
- Donation of Mill Creek Pond Park to the city

Park Funding and Capital Improvements for 2022-2028

Funding

General tax revenues, fees, grants, and donations provide the income stream for maintaining and improving the city's park system. Excluding capital projects, the General Fund park budget for 2022 is \$85,224. The budget for the Dock Fund, which includes the Ron Craig Boat Launch and the South Bend Docks, is \$24,930. The annual budget for the Library Fund is \$10,600.

The city has been successful in securing grant funding and donations for major park upgrades. Grants and donations were essential funding source for the Cheney Community Park, Mary Rogers Pioneer Park, and Mill Creek Pond Park projects. In addition, community groups, like the Friends of the South Bend Public Library, have also contributed significant funding in the past.

Six-Year Capital Facilities Plan for the Park System

Major park improvements included in the city's 2022 – 2028 Capital Facilities Plan include the following projects:

| Year | Project Title | Cost | Funding Source |
|------|---|-----------|--------------------|
| 2022 | Mary Rogers Pioneer Park - replace gravel areas with permeable concrete surface | \$18,000 | Grant & city match |
| 2022 | Acquisition of Triplett property for Willapa Hills Trail extension | \$800,000 | Grant & city match |
| 2022 | Installation of children's playground equipment | \$50,000 | ARPA |
| 2023 | Cheney Pavilion roof & concrete repair | \$20,000 | City |
| 2023 | Robert Bush Park grading and resurfacing | \$25,000 | City |
| 2024 | Mill Creek Pond upgrades & maintenance | \$3,000 | City |

The park system also will be sharing future heavy equipment purchases with the city's Sewer, Water, and Street Funds.

A strategy for funding the needed upgrades to the Carnegie Library is still in the works and may be added to the Capital Facilities Plan soon.

Section 5: Public Involvement Program

Public Survey

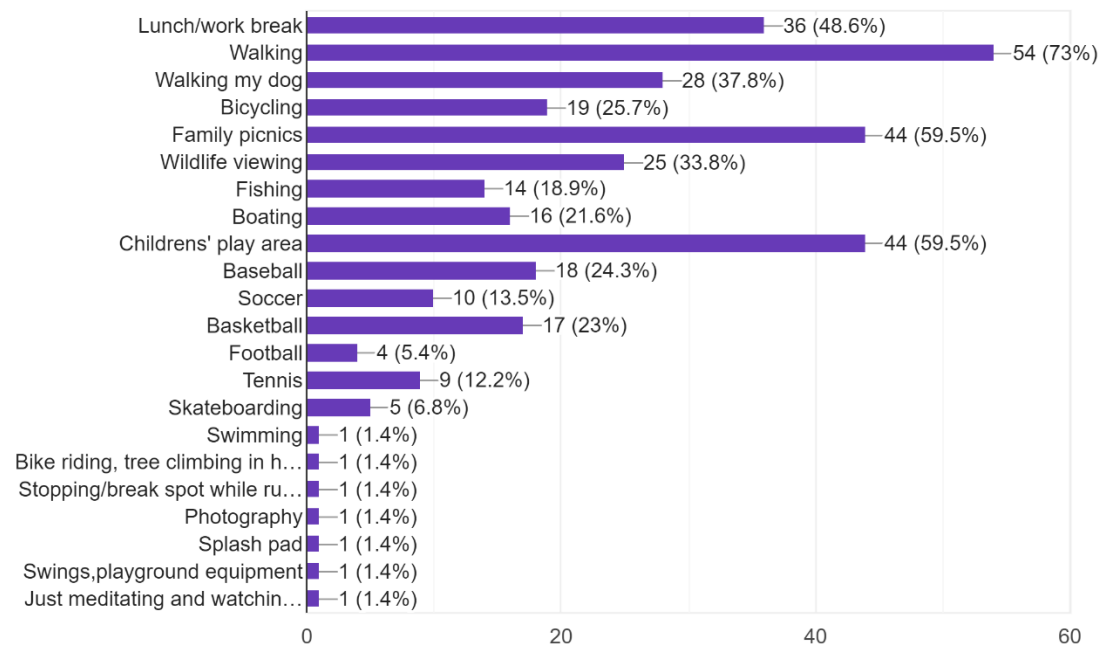
Listening to the opinions of South Bends citizen about their park system have been essential in formulating the direction for this update to the Comprehensive Park Plan.

The city conducted a citizen survey during the months of January through April that asked how people used the parks, how often, what they liked most and least about them, and to share their opinions and ideas about their future.

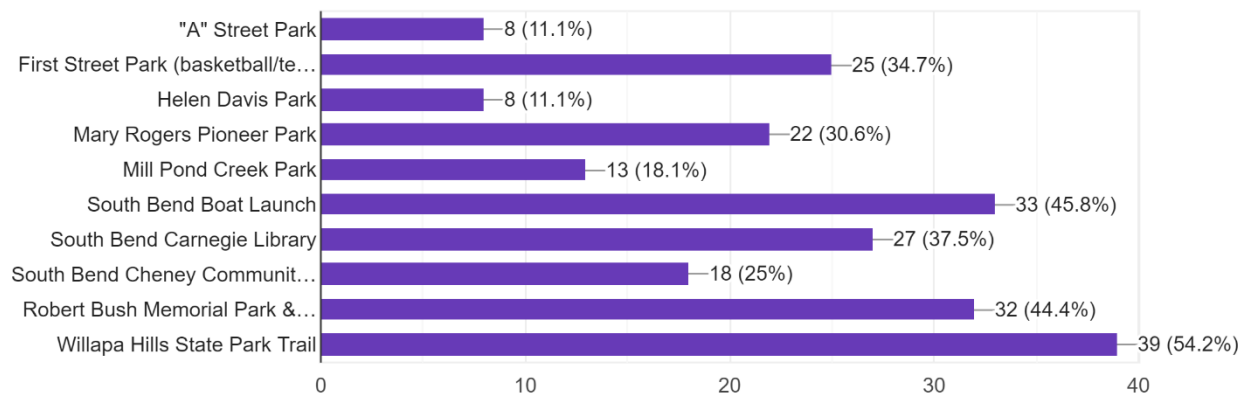
The city offered several options for citizens to receive and complete the survey. The city website hosted a page that explained the update process that included a link for citizens to fill out the survey electronically. Hard copies of the survey were also available at City Hall. To encourage even more participation, the city's mayor hosted a day-long Park Awareness table in front of the local grocery store. Altogether, the outreach process provided the city with 75 responses, the best return rate for the park planning process to date.

Results of the survey follow below.

What kinds of activities do you enjoy doing in the city's parks? (74 responses)



Which three city parks do you use the most? (72 responses)



What do you like the MOST about your parks? (49 responses)

- They are clean
- The trail for walking and running
- Grassy areas, restrooms
- There aren't many people there.
- Locations
- I love being able to picnic with my girls.
- Maintained nicely
- Not lots of people
- Being by the river
- Seating, garbage cans, play area for kids, bathrooms
- Love the trail
- Places for kids to play
- Restrooms
- They exist
- Availability
- Clean & accessible
- It's close to where we live.
- Especially like ones with bathrooms
- I like that we have many parks in most parts of town.
- close by and not crowded!
- I appreciate the parks having clean areas and space or toys for children to play.

- To be honest, I didn't realize a couple of those listed were considered parks; most are too small to bother 'visiting'. MR Pioneer Park is the only well maintained & 'functional' park that I visit.
- We love the walking trails and the areas that have restrooms and are available for family picnics.
- They're clean!
- Great walking trails, lots of pocket parks
- Anything that will bring beauty and nature to our community is a good thing IMO. Also, parks are a place to rest or gather which I think is important too.
- These are the parks we know about and therefore utilize the most. Maybe we've been to the others and didn't even realize. I think more marketing of these public spaces would be great. Also, would love to see more family friendly spaces and activities across the parks to get kids outdoors, learning and moving their bodies instead of sitting in front of screens.
- Clean
- Places to ride bikes.
- The three I use are accessible.
- Wildlife, a place to sit and observe nature. A place to walk and photograph birds & other animals and plant life.
- Accessible and easy to use
- Safe place for my child to play
- Never too crowded. Far enough away from traffic that kids can run around.
- They are easy to find.
- Nice basketball court clean bathrooms and water fountains
- Bathrooms, play area
- Space to enjoy the outdoors with family
- The scenery
- We need more kid activities
- Boat launch
- Off-road bicycle/foot paths.
- Feeling of tranquility; watching kids play
- They are kept clean by our maintenance department.
- Kids activities
- Library
- Those with a view!

- Cleanliness, safe, fun

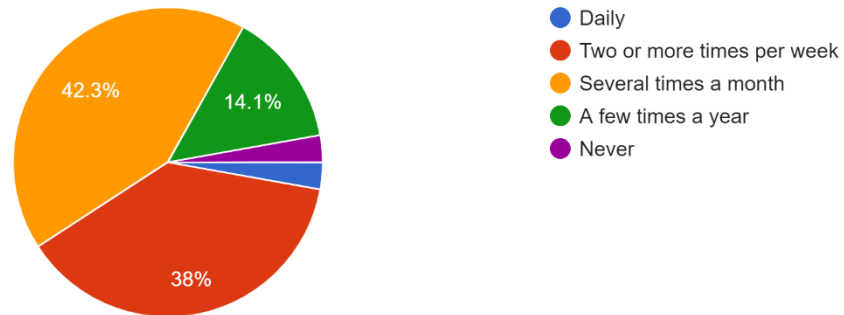
What do you like the LEAST about your parks? (52 responses)

- Wish the mile markers would be repainted on the path.
- No play structures for children. Have to travel to Raymond for that.
- The cleanliness and upkeep seem lacking—dirty, full (or no) trash cans, dirty tables
- The park on First Street near Ferry is so very run down. Please consider upgrading or at least performing some maintenance we would love to use this park
- There is nothing for kids to actually do. There is a swing set at one park. That is it. We *need* a children's park that isn't all the way in Raymond. I cannot drive, so my kids miss out.
- Not enough play areas for children
- Tourists and trash
- The parks on the list are largely just open spaces. It would be nice to have a park with a playground.
- Small, too close to road, bathroom locked
- Hope the trail doesn't get neglected. Lots of cracks in it. Nice if the grass was mowed and kept up.
- Not enough equipment for kids to play on
- Unkempt, unclean, poorly maintained. Uninviting
- Locked fenced baseball field
- We need play areas for children
- We have ZERO children's play structures in our town. We have to go to Raymond. Boo.
- When people abuse that privilege of clean accessible facilities and make a mess or destroy things
- Several occasions we have stumbled across dangerous materials and lack of fencing and children's play structures make entertaining small children difficult.
- No bathrooms
- No playgrounds or other outdoor activities. Locked bathrooms at Cheney during off season
- Rest room facilities are limited, covered areas limited
- Lack of play equipment
- Nothing to do.
- There isn't a great place for children to play, especially toddlers. No covered areas.

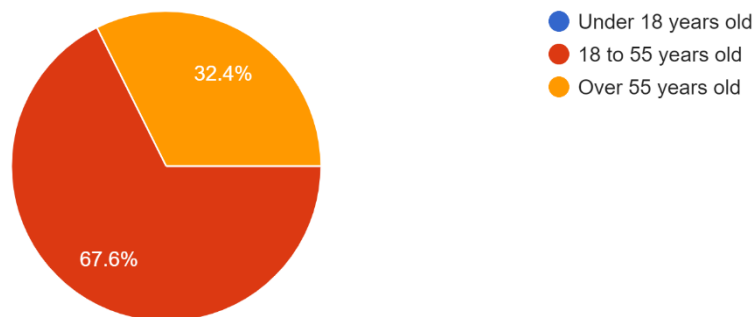
- No play equipment for little ones!
- Would like to see a community garden, basketball court, kayak dock
- Not enough kids' toys
- Sometimes the upkeep isn't great . Trash overflowing etc.
- I don't think there's anything wrong. I hope that poisons are not used in the maintenance of our parks. I would like to see more trees and shrubs used, maybe a focus on native plants. I would love to see bird boxes to attract Swallows that eat mosquitoes.
- Not knowing about them and items that have fallen into disrepair like the docks, which we've heard are being fixed!!! The Mary Rogers Park is so well kept. Would like to see more like that with some kid friendly spaces/activities!
- No play area for children
- No play structures for kids to play on
- Many of the other parks are not as well maintained nor do they have equipment for a family to use (play structures, park benches, etc.).
- Crowded, unmaintained. no real nature or a view devoid of plant life.
- Parking lot flows or structure
- First street park desperately needs attention
- Tennis court/basketball court really just has swings now. When I was younger, I enjoyed playing basketball and tennis and riding my bike there...
- Some of them don't appear to be maintained well
- No restrooms, not many places for kids to run and play, we need more covered areas and more playgrounds.
- That the city doesn't take care of them.
- No football fields or big fields of grass
- No sidewalks or trails
- There is absolutely nothing in town for kids to do/play
- Nothing for children to play on...fenced area.
- Needs more trees, landscaping
- Rundown appearance of vicinity; vandalism.
- Mosquitos, poor maintenance
- B9t eno7gh toy equipment for the kids
- Tennis courts a waste of space
- At times unkempt
- Nothing. Mayor Struck does an excellent job making sure they are kept up.

- All the trash
- Closed bathrooms, not clean

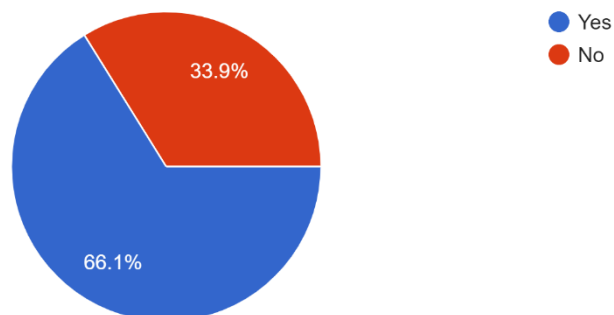
How often do you use your city parks? (71 responses)



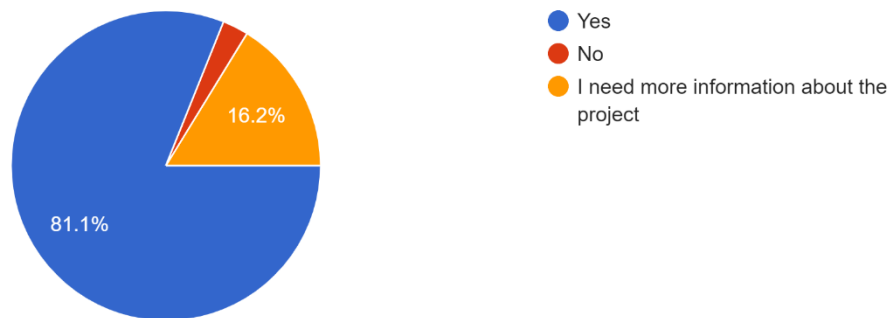
What is your age group? (71 responses)



Do you have children or grandchildren in your household under 18 years old who use the parks? (62 responses)



Do you support extending the Willapa Hills State Park Trail further into South Bend, including possibly adding a riverside park with amenities? (74 responses)



Are there other thoughts you would like to share about your city parks? (37 responses)

- Please repaint the markers on the path with distances. Possibly pave the area that connects into Raymond, currently gravel for a section. Water has washed away gravel
- If we have better parks, we would spend more money in South Bend rather than McDonalds, DQ or subway as we head to the parks in Raymond.
- More opportunities for kids to play should be installed . Not necessarily equipment bought from a company, but more things that inspire creative play, such as walkways, logs, stepping stones, etc.
- I love the walking parks. I love the benches and picnic areas. I need something that is child oriented, and I know many other parents feel the same way. Want kids off the street? Give them somewhere safe to play.
- We need more downtown on the west end of town.
- Such potential but offer little services or activities
- Would be great to have a covered play area and structures for kids to play on

Section 6: Demand and Needs Analysis

South Bend citizens have access to a well-developed park system that is much larger than other cities of its population size and resources. As the public survey results show, residents use and appreciate these parks as part of their daily lives.

However, the city's parks play a much larger role than simply serving the recreational needs of residents. Being on the much traveled US 101 Olympic Peninsula route, the city's park facilities are a draw for regional visitors taking a break from their travels. Park facilities like Mary Rogers Pioneer Park, the boat launch and dock, and the Ray Spurrell boardwalk entice visitors to stop and enjoy the beautiful, expansive vistas of the Willapa River. Most importantly, these visitors significantly contribute to the local economy by shopping at local businesses.

Addressing Existing Park Needs

The survey responses show that the city is on the right track in responding to resident opinions about existing park needs in the Comprehensive Park Plan.

- The commitment made within the city's Capital Facilities Plan to incorporate more children's assets in its parks finally will address this often requested recreational demand.
- Renovation of the Cheney Community Park pavilion will improve the restroom facilities.
- The city will continue working on a funding strategy for implementing needed improvements to the Carnegie Library.
- The recent dedication of a city employee for the parks system will help alleviate many complaints about park maintenance.

Unfortunately, renovation of the First Street Park surface is still an unmet need the city still needs to address.

Addressing New Park Needs

South Bend's waterfront is a cherished asset recognized by both community members and visitors alike. The community has long supported the idea of a greater park presence along the Willapa River, a prominently stated goal in both its Comprehensive Plan and Shoreline Master Program.

Proposed projects like the extension of the Willapa Hills Trail State Park will respond to this demand. Community support for pursuing this project received overwhelming approval

in its recent park survey. Furthermore, the interest and participation by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission staff in the project's design is representative of its regional and statewide significance.

Section 7: Adoption

Planning Commission Review

Based on the results of the survey, the city prepared an update to the Comprehensive Park Plan. The city made the draft available on its webpage for the public to review and comment. On April 14, 2022, the Planning Commission reviewed the draft for consistency with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan as well as to share feedback on how well the draft reflected the results of the public survey. After listening to public comment at the meeting, the Planning Commission adopted a recommendation to the City Council to adopt the plan.

City Council Action

On April 25, 2022, the City Council held a public hearing for the community to receive comment on the final draft. At the conclusion of the hearing, the City Council passed a resolution adopting the plan.